

A true and perfect

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RELATION OF THE VVHOLE TRANSACTION

CONCERNING

The PETITION of the Six Counties
of *South-wales*, and the County of
Monmouth, formerly presented to the
Parliament of the Common-Wealth,
of *ENGLAND,*

For a supply of Godly Ministers,
And an Account of Ecclesiasticall
Revenues therein:

With the PARLIAMENTS Resolves, and
Proceedings thereupon.

Now humbly Represented to his Highnesse the Lord
PROTECTOR'S Consideration.

Published by A. G.

L O N D O N

Printed by J. G. for *Math. Ekins*, at the Gun in *St. Pauls*
Church-yard, 1654.

And the people

ON

NOTICE

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To his most Excellent Highnesse, *OLIVER* Lord
Protector of the Common-wealth of England, Scotland, and
Ireland, and the Dominions thereunto belonging.

May it please your Highnesse,

THe Nation of Wales, being described to the former Parliament to be overspread with Ignorance and Prophanenes, Was by the Members thereof, Taken into consideration, And passed an Act for the better Propagation, and Preaching of the Gospall in Wales; For the putting whereof in execution divers Commissioners were Authorized, and impowered to Amove and Eject those of the Ministry, whom they conceived to be unworthy: And persons were Nominated to Recommend, and approve, such men, as they should judge fit for the advancement of the Gospell in those Countries. The Commissioners according to their Authority, proceeded in the work; So that in a short space, the Ancient Clergy were (for the most part) indiscriminally ejected, The Tithes Sequestred, The Parishes left unsupplied, The blessed Ordinance of Christ taken away from the Inhabitants, And they wholly debarred from any spirituall comfort to their pretious Soules, by any Power or dispensation of Gospell-Ministry, but what they must receive from some few Itinerants in their uncertaine meetings. This (out of a Soule-saving necessity) stirred up the spirits of many of the conscientious Inhabitants to present that pious Petition of South-wales to the Honourable House. But the Petitioners their Councell, and Solicitors have been prejudiced in their Reputation, for discharging their duty therein to God, and their native Country, and rendered thereby incapable of serving the same; And have been traduced to have failed to prove, and make good the Matters exhibited in the Petition; Which constrains mee to publish this Narrative of the whole Transaction and Proceedings of the Parliament, with their Resolves in Referring the same to the Committee for Plundered Ministers; As also, to make truly evident unto publick view the Petitioners particular charge, the Commionssiers Answer, with the Petitioners Reply thereunto, as they were lodged with the Clerk for the Committee, according to their severall Originall Copies, Or-

ders and Reports, Protesting, that I have not the least thought out of malice, or self-ends to asperse or calumniate any mans Person ; But only to set down matters of fact for the manifestation of Truth; to vindicate the Petitioners, their Councell, and Solicitors from all malignant designe in promoting the Petition, Either to discourage the goodly, or to bring into Authority any Malignant or ill-affected persons, Or re-investing unworthy, and scandalous Ministers.

All which I have made bold in the fear of God, and power of his Grace, to spread most humbly before your Highness. That seeing the Promises of good things do already shine both in Church and State by your Highness his Protection and Government ; Why should the poor Inhabitantes of Wales despaire to make known their grievances, and Represent their sad Spirituall Condition before your Christian-Eye, who (perhaps) have not had as yet a full discovery thereof ? Who knows, But that the Lord (who had hid these things from such as were formerly in Authority) Hath reserved the same for your Highnesse Care, That the People may have Cause to praise and blesse God for you, Whom he hath designed to Performe so glorious a Worke, as to Restore the Comfort of the Blessed Ordinances of Christs Gospell unto their Nation againe.

You are now become not onely Petra, a Foundation, Wheron the People must rest :

In vos domus omnis Inclinata Recumbit.

but also Pastor Israelis, a Sheepsheard to provide Pastures for the People, The Lord in his Mercy direct you to All what is condu cible to his Glory, the peace of your owne Conscience, and the good and Well-fare of the People under your Protection, prayeth,

March. 23.

1653.

Your Highnesse most humbly
in all Christian Services to be
Commanded,

Alex. Griffith.



The PETITION of the Six Counties

of South-wales, and the County of Monmouth, with a Narrative of the Parliament Resolves thereupon; And the Proceedings before the Committee for Plundered Ministers, to whom it was Referred by the Honourable House; faithfully transcribed, and herein expressed according to the severall Originall Orders.

The tenth of March, 1651. Col. Edward Freeman Attorney Generall for the Common-wealth in South-wales (as Councell, and at the request of the Petitioners) attended with severall of the Petitioners did present a Petition to the then Supream Authority, The Parliament of the Common-wealth of England, Intituled The humble Petition of severall of the Inhabitants of the Six Counties of South-wales, and County of Monmouth, well affected to the Parliament, and present Government, on the behalfe of themselves and the rest of the Inhabitants there, in these words following, (viz.)

SHEVETH



Hat your Petitioners cannot but with all humbleness acknowledge your Honours constant care, in providing for the supply of their spirituall necessities, and the advancement of the Gospel of Christ, and particularly in passing the Act of the 22 of February 1649. Intituled an Act for the Propagation of the

1. The Petition divided into 9. Heads.

Gospel in Wales, so much really intended by your *Honours*, which filled the hearts of your *Petitioners*, and all the Inhabitants of *Wales* with joy and gladness in hopes to find the fruits thereof accordingly: Nevertheless your *Petitioners* humbly shew,

1. That since the passing of the said *Act*, all or most of the *Ministers* of *South Wales* and *County of Monmouth*, have beene and stand *Ejected* from their Benefices, and but few or none of the said respective *Counties* have beene supplied with any competent number of Godly, able *Teachers*, to officiate in the *Roomes* of the oured *Ministers*.

3. Neither hath there beene provided any convenient number of godly Schooles for the education of Children, and advancement of learning as was intended by your *Honours*, and the true purport of the said *Act*, as they humbly conceive there being not above foure or five Itinerary Teachers in some of the said *Counties*, appointed and approved of to teach the *Gospel*. Whereas some of the said *Counties* do consist of above six score Parishes, and the least of fifty or threescore, many whereof have at least two thousand Soules.

4. That some persons deriving Authority from the said *Act* have for these two yeares last past received and disposed of all the profits of the *Tithes* of Church-livings, and all other Benefices and Impropriations sequestred, within the said six *Counties* of *South Wales* and *County of Monmouth*, which are annually worth twenty thousand pound or thereabouts; Out of which little hath beene converted towards the Propagation of the *Gospel*, or accounted for to the *State*.

6. That for want of the due Execution of the said *Act*, your *Petitioners* together with the said Inhabitants indure a *Famine* of the Word of God; Children are not bred up in the Instruction and Information of the Lord; The vast revenues of the oured *Ministers* are set out at extraordinary undervalues. The Churches are in most places shut up, and the Fabrick thereof ready to fall to the ground for want of Repaire. Neither can the Inhabitants take notice of your *Honours* Acts, Edicts and Proclamations (wherein the publique Welfare, the Liberty and Safety of their persons, and estates are concerned) for want of a fitting number of *Teachers* in each County to publish the same.

You,

Your *Petitioners* therefore out of their duty to God, the pre-
 servation of the *Souls* of the *Inhabitants* of their *Country*, the
Common-Wealths interest, and the earnest desire they have that
 your *Honours* most pious intentions expressed in the said *Act*,
 may be accordingly observed; Do hold themselves bound in
 conscience, out of Christian and *Soul-saving* necessity, to pre-
 sent the premises to your *Honours* consideration. Earnestly be-
 seeing your *Honours* in pursuance of your wonted zeale, and
 unfeigned Affection to Gods Glory, and the Increase of true
Religion, Learning and *Piety*, to take such a course for the future
 supply of their respective *Counties*, with such convenient number
 of Godly able *Teachers*, and for *Provisions* of *Schools* and *Nur-*
series of *Learning* and *Religion* there; As also to call to account
 such persons as have received the profits of the said *Tithes*,
Church-livings and *Prebends*, and the *Sequestred Impropriations*
 as to your *Honours* grave wisdom shall seeme meete. And your
Petitioners shall as in duty bound most humbly pray, &c.
 At the presenting of the *Petition*, Col. *Freeman* being come
 to the *Bar*, did deliver at the request of the *Petitioners*, the true
 sense and meaning of the *Petition* and *Petitioners*, and the sum of
 their desires, for a more clear demonstration of their reall inten-
 tions therein, in these words, (*viz.*)

2. The pre-
 senting thereof
 to the *Parlia-*
ment, by Col.
Freeman, and
 his Speech.

Mr. SPEAKER,

IT was the desire of many well-affected *Gentry*, and other *In-*
habitants of *South-wales*, That I should present to your
 Grave consideration this *Petition*, and withall humbly to
 beg you will be pleased to believe they desire not to bring in
 any scandalous ejected *Ministers*: (as some out of prejudice to
 the *Petitioners* do suggest) but such as this Honorable *House*
 shall approve of, and onely such shall be most gratefully enter-
 tained by them: A *Soul-saving* necessity hath constrained them
 to this humble address, who for above two yeeres last past have
 lived in darkness, the light of the *Gospel* being almost extinguisht,
 shining onely in some few corners of the *Country*, and in-
 grossed into particular distinct *Congregations*, which are not a-
 bove foure or five in most *Counties* in *South-wales*, & how foure or

Five Itineraries can supply a whole County, (most of the Counties consisting of eighty or a hundred Parishes) is humbly left to your Honour's grave consideration. The Inhabitants of *South-wales* are not onely destitute of a convenient number of *Ministers*, but also of able *School-masters*, to the decay of *Religion* and *Learning*. And nevertheless the vast Revenue of the outed *Clergy* and all *Sequestred Tythes, Improvements, Glebes* and other *Ecclesiasticall Livings* (amounting to a great value) is received by persons deriving Authority from the Act of the 22 of *Febr.* 1649 which was really intended by this Honourable House, for the true propagation of the *Gospel*, who do let and set out the same to *Friends, Creatures* and *Alliance* of their owne at extraordinary undervalues, to the prejudice of the *State*, and the gaine of private persons. (Mr. Speaker) This innocent *Petition* hath no designe in it against the *Common Wealth*, or any particular persons, All that the *Petitioner* craves from this Honourable house, is a convenient number of able godly *Teachers*, and *School-Masters*, such as you shall approve of, and an account for the profits and *Revenues* of the *Churches* received for these two last years. As we ayme herein, at the *Glory* of God, and the publick good, so let God *blesse* us, and give a *gracious* issue to our humble desires.

The *Petitioners* being with-drawne, the said *Petition* was read, and taken into consideration, and thereupon the *Parliament* passed the ensuing *Resolves*, viz.

The 10 of *March* 1651.

3. The Resolution of the Parliament.

1. Resolved by the *Parliament*, that it be referred to the Committee for plundered *Ministers* to examine this businesse, and to state matters of fact, and Report their opinions therein to the *Parliament*, with power for the same Committee to send for *Persons*, *Pappers*, and *Witnesses*.

2. Resolved, That the same Committee have power to examine upon *Oath*, and to authorize such *Commissioners* in the Country as they shall thinke fit to examine *Witnesses* upon *Oath*, touching any the matters contained in this *Petition*, and to returne those examinations to the said Committee.

And

And the same day the said *Petition* and *Resolves* were transmitted to the *Honorable Committee* for *plundered Ministers*, to whom the same was referred. And it was then *Ordered*: That the same should be taken into consideration on the 16 of *March* following, on which day several of the *Petitioners* with their *Councillors* and *Solicitors* did attend the said *Committee* with *Commissioners* Names, which they offered and prayed a *Commission*, directed to those Gentlemen, or such other persons as the *Honorable Committee* should thinke fit, to examine the matters contained in the said *Petition* in the *Countrey*, where the witness resided, and matters of fact did rise, according to the said *Resolves of Parliament*.

At which time some of the *Committee*, especially *Major General Harrison*, one of the *Commissioners* for *Propagation in Wales*, did insist that the *Petition* was too generall, and demanded a particular charge; Unto which the *Petitioners* *Solicitors* gave answer, that they were solely *Solicitors* for the *Petitioners*, and had no more yet in charge for their Clients (the *Petitioners*) then the preservation of the *Petition*, and doubted not but to exhibite particulars if required; and the *Petitioners* have convenient time for that purpose: yet nevertheless, conceived that the *Petitioners* by the aforesaid *Resolves* of *Parliament*, were not directed to exhibite any new charge; or particulars other then the *Petition* it selfe, which was all that was referred to the consideration of that *Honourable Committee*, and all that the *Petitioners* were to prove and make good, which they were ready to doe according to these *Resolves*, which gave that *Committee* no power, or direction (as they humbly conceived): to demand or receive any new charge or particulars.

But the *Petitioners* could not then obtaine a *Commission* to prove their *Petition*; It being then thought fit, and ordered: that first before any *Commission* issued, a *Letter* should be written by *Major General Harrison*, *Col. Sydney*, and *Mr. Henry Herbert* Members of *Parliament*, the *Commissioners* for *Propagation of the Gospel in South Wales and County of Monmouth*, together with a *Copy* of the said *Petition*, desiring them by the 18. of *May*, 1652. (being two moneths time to give a particular answer to the said *Committee* in the said *County* and matters there

4. The transmitting of the *Petition*, and *Resolves* to the *Committee* for *plundered Ministers*.

5. The *Petitioners* with *Councillors*, and *Solicitors* attend the *Committee*, 16 *March*.

6. *Major General Harrison* excepts against the generality of the *Petition*, requiring a particular charge, and the *Solicitors* Answer.

7. The *Petitioners* are denied a *Commission*. A *Letter* to be first sent to the *Commissioners* for *propagation*, to send an account by the 18. of *May*, 1652.

in contained. Whether the said Letter was sent or no, is best known to those worthy Gentlemen, to whom the care thereof was referred.

The Petitioners with their Councillors and Solicitors did attend the said Honourable Committee on the 18 of May. At which time the Petition, and also a general Answer was read, purporting the Answer of the Commissioners for the propagation of the Gospel, &c.

1. The Petitioners Councells, except against the Commissioners Answer.

10. They pray for a Copy of the Commissioners Answer, which is denied.

11. The Committee Order of May 18. 1652. which the Petitioners could not obtaine, or a Copy thereof, untill the day before they were to answer it.

12. The Order of May 18. ambiguously drawn.

Unto which the Petitioners Councell replied, That the same did, altogether consist of Generalls; And in regard it was impossible for them (being strangers to the matters of fact) nor yet for their Clients the Petitioners to offer any thing there at the Bar by way of Reply, or Exceptions to the said Answer before they had a Copy thereof, and time to consider of the same, they prayed to have a Copy of the said Answer for that purpose, which they could not obtaine; but the Petitioners were then Ordered by Friday the 21. of May (being two dayes after) to exhibit such particulars contained in their Petition, upon which they would insist, and desire to examine witnesses. The Petitioners Agents attended the Clerke of that Committee for the said Order, but could not obtaine the same, or a Copy thereof, untill Wednesday at six a clock in the Evening, so that the Petitioners had but one dayes time to answer the expectation of the Committee in relation to the said Order: who (finding the same to be ambiguously and uncertainly drawn, bearing severall interpretations) did demand of Master Phelpes, the Clerk attending the said Committee, what was meant by the Particulars mentioned in the said Order? who either would not, or could not satisfie them therein, (though present at the making of the Order, whilst the Petitioners were withdrawne:) whereupon they Addressed themselves to Members of Parliament, that sat at the Committee, when the said Order was made, and tooke advise of Councell; And upon the whole they did apprehend the meaning of the Order to be onely this; That the Petitioners should declare what parts, or particulars of their Petition they would insist to prove (it containing many particulars;) not conceiving that the Committee should require a particular charge against the proceedings and transactions of the Commissioners for

for *Propagation* in the seven Counties for above two yeares, and to have the same drawn up and exhibited in two dayes; which was a worke of impossibility, much time to be done in one day; which if they meant; it behooved their Clerk to have expressed the same in the Order by cleare and intelligible words.

The *Petitioners* in obedience to the said Order in full Answer to what was required, thereby so far as the words, and the very Letter of the Order did purport, did appears on the said 21 of May, and by their Countell did affirme, that they did insist on all the particulars contained in their *Petition*: And would prove the truth of the *Petition* in every particular, And prayed againe a *Commission* into the Countrey, according to the *Resolves* of *Parliament* to prove the same; Whereupon Major Generall *Harrison* did aske the *Petitioners* Councell, if they had any thing else to offer to the *Committee* at that time, unto which answer was given by the *Petitioners* Councell, that they had delivered the Answer of the *Petitioners*, in obedience to the said Order, and prayed that the same might be recorded.

And prayed also that they would Order their Clerk to deliver the *Petitioners* a Copy of the *Commissioners* Answer to the *Petition*, whereby the *Petitioners* might be enabled either to except or reply unto the same, and proceed to issue according to the usuall course, practice and proceedings in all Courts of Justice, and *Committees*, And even of that Honorable *Committee* in all other causes; The *Petitioners* conceiving that the *Commissioners* did not send up their Answer with an intention to conceal the same from the knowledge of the *Petitioners*, or were unwilling that the same should be exposed to publick view.

Nevertheless the *Petitioners* could not obtaine an Order for a Copy thereof: being commanded to withdraw, before the *Committee* did explaine the said Order, or give any further time for the *Petitioners* to satisfy the expectation of the *Committee* in reference to the same, and before the *Petitioners* or their Councell were called in, or were againe heard; who had some what more to offer to the consideration of that *Committee*.

It was Ordered that Col. *Bennet*, Mr. *Robinson*, Col. *Sydney*, Mr. *Strickland*, Alderman *Allen*, Lieut. Gen. *Fleetwood*, Mr. *Smith* and

13. May 21. The *Petitioners* offer to prove the truth of their *Petition*, in every particular, and desire a *Commission* for that purpose, And pray that this their tender may be Recorded.

14. They move againe for a Copy of the *Commissioners* Answer, which was not granted.

May 21. 1652.
15. An Order for a Sub-committee to report matter of fact upon the *Petition*, before a Copy of the *Commissioners* Answer is granted, issued, joyned, or writtenes examined.

and Col *Fennick*; or any three or more of them doe examine the matter of fact, as it then lay before the said Committee upon the said *Petition* of the six Counties of *South-wales*, and County of *Monmouth*; to the said Committee referred by the *Parliament*, and report the same to the said Committee, in order to a *Report* of the whole case to the *Parliament*.

5. The Petitioners prepare particulars concerned in their Petition, in the nature of a charge.

The *Petitioners* afterwards understanding the sense of the Committee in relation to the said Order of the 18 of *May*, and that by particulars contained in the *Petition*, they did meane a particular charge: The *Petitioners* did with all convenient speed prepare particulars contained in the generall heads of the *Petition* in the nature of a Charge, and did instance severall miscarriages acted and done by colour of the said *Act* for *Propagation of the Gospel*, as by the particulars annexed will more fully appeare.

17. Which particulars are annexed to a Petition presented July 16. 1652.

And the *Petitioners* did the 16. of *July* 1652. annex the same to a *Petition*, directed to the said Honourable Committee, wherein they did signify that by the said Order of the 18. of *May*, they did not then understand the meaning of the Committee, not conceiving their Honours did require thereby a particular charge, especially to be exhibited within two dayes (which was a worke of impossibility) being never before ordered so to do, nor required by the *Resolves* of *Parliament* to exhibite or prove any other thing then the *Petition* it selfe, and the matters therein contained; And having prepared the particulars annexed they prayed them to accept of the same (though for the reasons aforesaid they failed in strictness of time given them by the said Order.)

18. The Petitioners are againe denied a Commission according to the Resolves of Parliament.

19. Ordered by the Committee, that the particulars should be reported to the Parliament.

And likewise prayed that the Honourable Committee would grant a Commission to the Countries, according to the said *Resolves* to prove the same, which *Petition* and *Particulars* being read for the *Reasons* in the said *Petition* contained, and upon the reading and serious debate, and consideration had of the former *Orders* and *Proceedings* of the Committee in that Cause,

It was Ordered, that the said particulars be admitted, and added to the Report of the matters to be Reported to the *Parliament*. At which time the *Petitioners*, *Solicitors* and *Agents*, in-

informed the *Committee*, that their *Clerk* denied them a Copy of the *Commissioners Answer*, who from the 18 of *May* to that day, being the 16 of *July* 1652. could not obtaine a Copy thereof (although they used all possible meanes, and endeavours therein) Whereupon

It was Ordered that the *Petitioners* should have Copies of the Answer of the *Commissioners* for Propagation of the *Gospel* in *Wales*, and of all other Papers and Proceedings remaining with the said *Committee*.

And accordingly the *Petitioners* having Copies of the *Commissioners Answer*, did prepare a *Reply* to the same (which was impossible for them sooner to doe,) And (having annexed the said *Reply* to a *Petition*) did the 20 of *August* 1652. Present the same to the said Honourable *Committee*, praying them to accept of the said *Reply*, and likewise the fourth time prayed a *Commission*, to prove the *Petition*, as also their Particulars and *Reply*. And did likewise informe the *Committee* that on perusal of a *Report* drawne up by the *Sub-committee*, they did finde therein mentioned the said Booke of *Accompt*, contayning sixty Sheets of Paper, and conceiving it of dangerous consequence, and very prejudiciall, as well to the *Petitioners* as to the *State*, in case the said Booke of *Accompt* should be Reported, before it was lodged with that *Committee*, and the *Petitioners* have a Copy thereof, and liberty to surcharge the same, without which the *State* might be defrauded many thousand pounds by an undue *Accompt*, they prayed that the said Booke of *Accompt* might be brought in, and lodged with the *Committee*.; And the *Petitioners* might have a Copy thereof, and liberty to surcharge the same; And that in the meane time the same should not be reported to the *Parliament* (their *Clerke* having declared that the said Booke was onely produced by Major Generall *Harrison*, before the *Sub-committee*, when they were drawing up the *Report*, and then by him (or others attending him) taken away and never read, examined or lodged with the *Clerke* of the said *Committee*).

Whereupon the 20 of *August* 1652. It was Ordered that the *Sub-committee* appointed by Order of the 21 of *May* last, should bring in to the said *Committee*, the said Booke of *Accompt*

20. A Copy of the *Commissioners Answer*, denied to the *Petitioners* the 18 of *May*, to the 16, of *July* 1652.

21. Ordered, that the *Petitioners* should have Copies of the *Commissioners Answer*.

22. Upon obtaining the Answer, a *Reply* is prepared,

23. And annexed to a *Petition* presented to the *Comit.*

Aug 23. 1652.

24. The *Petitioners* pray for a *Commission* the fourth time.

25. And that the *Commissioners* Booke of account might be lodged with the *Committee* & a copy thereof granted: the *Petitioners*;

26. The Booke of *accompt* produced, and afterwards taken away.

Aug. 20. 1652.

27. The *Sub-Committee* Ordered

to bring in the
Booke of Ac-
count the 27 of
August. 1652.
or shew cause
why they would
not.

28. The Clarke
contrary to the
Committees
Order inserts
the 3. of Sep.
which was a
Fast-day.

29. As appears
by M. Hancock's
Affidavit

30. The Clerk
answering that
the next day was
inserted in the
paper of causes,
being 5. of Sep.

31. The Petiti-
oners Councell
and Solicitor,
attending the
5. day. The
Clark had not
entred the same
into the Paper
of causes.

32. But without the privity of the Pe-
titioners Councell, or Solicitors, it
was Ordered the 8. of Sep. 1652.

1. All Orders since the 29 of June, to
be discharged.

2. The Report without mention of par-
ticulars, or Reply.

compt of the Commissioners for Propagation of the Gospel
in Wales, contrayning about threescore Sheets of paper in their
Report mentioned; Or satisfy the Committee to the contrary
on that day seven-night, being the time when the said Honour-
able Committee did appoint to take into consideration the
said *Petition* and *Reply*.) And the care of bringing in the said
Accompt was referred to Col. Bennet. But the Clerke attending
the said Committee, did contrary to the expresse Declaration
of the Committee, insert in the said Order, the third of *Septem-
ber*, to be the time for bringing in the said Account; And for
consideration of the *Petition* and *Reply*: Which day being a
Fast day, set apart by the Honourable Members of *Parlia-
ment*, for their Service and Worship of God, no Committee
Sat.

The day following the Fast, the Petitioners Councell and Sol-
licitors did attend the Committee to know their pleasures, if
they would then take the *Reply* into consideration, or appoint
another time, informing them, that their Clerke had mis-
named the day in the Order, contrary to the Declaration
and Order of the Committee, and as by the Affidavit of Mr.
Hancock, and the Petitioners Agents and Solicitor may ap-
peare.

But the Clerke did openly give Answer, that the same was put
down in the Paper of causes for the second day following the
Fast (being the 5. of Sep.)

And thereupon the Petitioners Councell, and Solicitors with
the leave of the Committee did depart to their other occasions,
and did attend there the next day, according to the public in-
timation and information of the Clerk. But the Clerk not ha-
ving entred the same in the paper of causes, it was not called on,
nor taken into consideration that day.

But on the 8 of September, in the
absence of the Petitioners, their Coun-
cell and Solicitors: All persons be-
ing withdrawn. It was Ordered, that
all Orders since the 29 of June, be dis-
charged, and the said Report as it was
then drawne up and Ordered, should be
reported.

reported to the *Parliament*; In which report there was no mention made of the said Particulars and Reply, herein after recited; And the said Report was likewise made and drawn up before any one witnesse was examined in the cause, and before any Copy had, or examination made of the said Booke of Accompt, that was never brought in, or lodged with the Committee for that purpose. And it was then likewise Ordered and Declared by the Honourable persons then sitting as a *Committee*, that they would make no further proceeding in the said Cause, untill the further pleasure of the *Parliament* be declared; upon the said Report to be made unto them.

At the drawing up of which Order, one *Richard Creed* servant to the said Major Generall *Harrison*, and an Agent against the said *Petitioners* was dictating the words of the said Order to *Mr. Langley* one of the Clerkes to the said *Committee*; who was taken therein and discovered by *Mr. Hancock*, one of the *Petitioners Agents*, whereupon the said *Langley*, for prevention of the discovery of this his undue carriage in this business against the *Petitioners*, wished the said *Creed* to be silent, when hee saw the said *Hancock*, and informed *Creed* that *Hancocks* was Agent for the *Petitioners*, as by the *Affidavit* of the said *Mr. Hancock*. may more at large appeare.

And Major Generall *Harrison* was as active, and sedulous in this matter, that on most days appointed for the hearing thereof, he did sit and vote as one of the *Grand Committee*. And in a speciall manner did likewise sit with the *Sub-committee* at the drawing up of their Report, and was chiefe instrument therein, and subscribed the same, though he was not appointed at all to be one of the *Sub-committee* by the Order of the 21. of *May 1652*. But was one of the *Commissioners* appointed in the *Act* for the *Propagation of the Gospell in Wales*; And thereby equally intrusted, and concerned with the rest of the *Commissioners* therein named.

3. Without any examination of what hee.

4. Without any Copy of the Booke of Account to be Reported to the *Parliament*.

5. No further proceedings before the *Committee*.

32. *Rich. Creed* (servant to) *M. G. Harrison* dictating the Order to *Langley*, (one of the Clerks) discovered.

34. As appears by *M. Hancocks Affidavit*.

35. *Ma. Gen. Harrison*, acting as one of the *Committee* though a *Commissioner* in the *Act* of *Pro-pagation*.

36. The Petitioners being ordered from further prosecution.

The Petitioners by the said Order of the 8. of September, being wholly debarred of any further proceedings before the said Committee, untill the further pleasure of the Parliament should be knowne therein, did patiently waite in expectation of what the Lord would bee pleased to direct them to doe therein.

37. And the Report suppressed from the 29. Jun. 1652. to the 25. May. 1653.

But so it fell out, that the said Report was privately kept from the Cognizance of the Parliament, from the 29 of June 1652. untill the 25 of March 1653. (being 9 Moneths,) To what end, and upon what accompt the same was so long suppressed, is best knowne to Colonell *Binner*, and others, who had the carriage thereof, and were intrusted by the said Order of 29 Junii. 1652. to Report the same to the Parliament.

38. The Petitioners, their Council, Solicitors and Agents are menaced, troubled, and imprisoned as followeth.

In the meane time, what strange and unusuall wayes have been used to suppress the said Petition it selfe, you will find here, in briefly declared.

39. The Petitioners are put out of Commission.

1. The Petitioners and their Agents were menaced, and threatened by the *Itinerants*, and *Sequestrators* to be *Sequestred*, and ruined, which was accordingly in part executed.

2. Divers Gentlemen that bore publick Offices of trust under the Parliament in those parts, and of approved faithfullnesse unto them, were discountenanced and put out of their Places and Offices meerey for subscribing the said Petition, and owning the truth thereof.

40. The Petitioners Solicitors, are tampered with by *Creed*, and *Mr. Rogers*.

3. That one *Richard Creed*, servant to Major Generall *Harrison*, and Agent for the propagators, and one *Hugh Rogers* (formerly a Cavalier in Armes against the Parliament, yet one of the *Welsh Itinerants*) having an evill purpose and designe to corrupt the said *John Gunter*, the Petitioners Soliciter, and to draw him to violate and falsifie the great trust reposed in him, by the Petitioners, did partly by threats, and partly by faire promises and perswasions endeavour to disingage him, from the further prosecution and solicitation of the said Petition.

41. Mr. Gunter denying their solicitation, & tampering, is together with *Col. Freeman*, prosecuted.

But the said *John Gunter*, abhorring with his Soule to condescend thereunto, and the said *Richard Creed*, and *Hugh Rogers*, finding their endeavours therein fruitless.

The said *Richard Creed* in August 1652. (being then a servant to Major Generall *Harrison*) upon his own single information obtained

obtained a *Warrant* for the apprehending & bringing before the (then) Councell, Col. *Edward Freeman*, the *Petitioners* Councell, and the said *John Gunter* the *Petitioners* Solicitour; In pursuance whereof the said Col. *Ed Freeman*, whilst he was discharging his duty in the great *Sessions* held at *Presteigne*, in the County of *Radnor*, as Attorney Generall of *South Wales*, was most disgracefully Arrested by the Councells Messengers, as he was going into the Court to plead for the *State*, and his own particular Clients. And immediately brought up a Prisoner to the (then) Councell, where he continued above sixteen weekes as a Prisoner, daily attending and petitioning for a charge, or discharge, (the *Common-wealth* and his own particular Clients in the meane time suffering great prejudice by his absence.)

At last a false and scandalous charge was brought in against him by *Richard Creede*, in the Name of *John Morgan*, one of the Sequestrators of the Church *Revenues* in *South-wales*, (being a man of a very meane Trade and Condition, before he was intrusted with the managing of the Sequestred Estates.) And the said *Creede* being demanded to prove the charge so by him exhibited, could not make good any one particular thereof; whereupon Col. *Freeman* was honorably discharged from his Restraint, and Attendance, in reference to the said charge.

Nevertheless hee received no reparation to this day for all these Wrongs and Suffrings; (though really dammified by this false Acculation of *Creede*, and his Complices) above 1000 l.

And afterwards upon the dissolution of the former *Parliament*, Col. *Freeman* by an *Order* of the (then) Councell (where Major Gen. *Harrison* had then the Honour to sit) was in his abscence (without any crime layed to his charge) discharged of his place of Attorney Generall for *South Wales*; Although hee had in that place (as also with the loss of his blood in the Field) given signall Testimonies of his Fidelity and Affection to the *Parliament* and *Commonwealth* of *England*.

And Mr. *Edm. Jones*, (a compounded Delinquent on Record) was appointed Attorney Generall in his stead, who continues in that place to this day, notwithstanding the severall *Acts* and *Ordinances* of *Parliament*, disabling him from the execution thereof.

42. Col. *Freeman* apprehended, as he was going to Court in *Presteigne Sessions* being *States Attorney*

43. A charge produced by *Creede*, in *John Morgans* Name against Col. *Freeman*

44. And for want of proof Col. *Freeman* is discharged

45. The Col. is not yet repaired though dammified 1000 l.

46. But by Order of the (then) councell is discharged of his place of Attorney Gen. without any more charge or proofs against him.

37. And M. *Edmond Jones*, put in his place.

48. Mr. *Gunter* understanding of the Warrant against him, doth voluntarily render himselfe into the hands of the Serjeant at Armes.

49. Attends the Council as a Prisoner the space of fifteen weeks.

50. A Charge exhibited by *Creed*, brought in by Major Gen. *Harrison* his Master, 9. Feb. 1652.

51. The matter suggested of a 12. months standing merely for acting or soliciting, and 7. moneths from the date of the Warrant to the exhibiting of the Charge.

52. M. *Gunter* voluntarily puts in his Answer 5. April. 1653.

53. The Report lying dormant 9. moneths, 54. Brought in by Col: *Bennet* 28. Mar. 1652. whilst the Petitioners, their Councellers and Solicitors were absent.

And the said *John Gunter* being gone into *Wales* to attend his civill imployments in the great *Sessions* for *Carmarthen*, *Pembroke*, and *Cardigan*, and understanding that the Warrant was issued out against him, did with all possible speed repaire to *London*, and voluntarily rendred himselfe to the Serjeant at Armes attending the *Councell*, and as a Prisoner attended 15. weeks, earnestly Petitioning for a Charge or Discharge.

In the meane time, such was the violence of his Prosecutors, that to disable him to attend his calling, and the solicitation of the said Petition about Jan. 1652. before any Charge brought against him, he was kept a close Prisoner in the Messengers custody two dayes and one night, by the meanes of Major Gen: *Harrison*, who moved at the *Councell* against the Serjeant at Armes for suffering Mr. *Gunter* to have liberty, though he daily attended the *Councell* as a Prisoner. But the *Councell* being informed of the state of his present case, would make no Order for his Restraint.

At last a malicious and impertinent Charge was brought in by the said *Richard Creed* the Informer, and usher'd in to the *Councell* by Major Gen: *Harrison* his (then) Master, 9. Feb. 1652. (about seven moneths after the issuing forth of the Warrant against him) wherein the matters suggested by *Creed* merely related to *John Gunter* as Soliciter for the Petitioners.

Unto which Charge, *John Gunter* 5. Apr. 1653. did likewise voluntarily put in a full and satisfactory Answer.

The Petitioners and their Agents being thus dealt withall and discouraged, and the Report of the said Committee lying dormant for about nine moneths, Col: *Bennet* and others who had the carriage of the Report, did make choice of the 23. of March, 1652. as a most fit and convenient time to bring in the same to the *Parliament*.

The Petitioners with their *Councell* and *Solicitors* being then out of Towne, and many worthy Members of *Parliament* absent, (who by their frequent sitting at the Committee on severall debates touching the said Petition, were deeply sensible of the sad truths therein contained.)

But

But the debate of that business being providentially put off untill the Friday following (being the 25. of March) The Pet. Agents returning unexpectedly to Towne, upon Thursday the 24. of March, and understanding this great business was to be taken into consideration in Parliament the next day, did as much as in them lay prepare an *Adresse* to the Parliament suitable to the shortness of the time, and the weight and nature of the cause wherewith they were intrusted by their Countrey. And for that purpose, A Petition was presented unto the Parliament, the said 25. of March, with a copie of the particulars & Reply herein after recited, by Mr. Charles Roberts, one of the Pet. Solicitors, in these words, viz.

55. The debate of the Report, providentially put off till 25. Mar.

56. Mr. Charles Roberts Pet. with particulars and Reply, put in the 25. of March.

To the Supream Authority, the Parliament of the Commonwealth of ENGLAND,

The humble Petition of CHARLES ROBERTS
of Grayes-Inne Gent'.

SHewETH,

That your Honours having appointed this day to take into consideration your Honours Act of the 23. of Febrary 1649. Intituled, An Act for the better propagation of the Gospel in Wales, and some Petitions and Proceedings relating thereunto; Your Petitioner out of his duty to God, and his Native Countrey, and for and on the behalfe of the Petitioners of the six Counties of South-wales, and County of Monmouth, (by Whom he is entrusted amongst others as their Agent and Solicitor) Humbly to offer to your Honours consideration the Particulars and Reply herunto annexed (The Originall Whereof hath been long since lodged with the Honourable Committee for Plundred Ministers, And by their Honours Order of 16. July and 20. August last, herunto likewise annexed, admitted in order to a Report thereof to your Honours, which nevertheless (as your Petitioner is informed) are omitted one of the Report of the said Honourable Committee: In respect

where-

Whereof your Petitioner is enforced to this humble address to your Honours,

Earnestly beseeching your Honours on the behalfe of the said Petitioners, to take the whole into your serious consideration, in order to a future redress of their grievances, partly contained in the said Petition, Particulars, and Reply, in such way as to your Honours grave Wisedomes shall seeme meet,

For which not onely your Petitioner, but many thousands of the Inhabitants of Wales will have cause to pray, &c.

57. The Resolve of Parliaments, 25 May 1653.

58. The Petitioners Agents attend the Committee with the Resolves, and move for a Commission.

59. The Petition delayed untill Thursday, and the Parliament dissolved the Wednesday before, and the Committee could not act any longer.

60. The Petitioners intend to revive their Petition before the last Parliament.

61. Mr. Gunter their Solicitor was the second time imprisoned by order of an absolute Warrant, and Order of Maj. Gen. Harrison.

Whereupon, and on consideration, and debate had of the Report brought in by Colonell Bennet, and of the whole matter as it then lay before the Parliament, they passed this ensuing Resolve.

Resolved by the Parliament, that this Report be re-committed with power to the Committee to examine the whole matter of Fact, and to Report it to the Parliament.

Afterwards the Petitioners Councell, and Solicitors did attend the said Committee with the said Resolve; And severall times moved them in pursuance thereof, and of the former Resolve of Parliament, of the 10 of March 1651. To grant Commissions to the Countrey, to examine the truth of the Petition, Particulars and Reply; whereby the said Committee might be enabled to Report the whole matter of Fact to the Parlia. But the said Committee did put it off untill Thursday 21 Apr. 1653.

And the Parliament being dissolved the Wednesday before, the said Committee, became consequently dissolved, and no further proceedings could be had before them on the said Petition and Resolves.

The Petitioners intending to revive their Petition, and Complaint before the late Parliament, and the noyse thereof coming to the eares of some persons concerned, The said John Gunter the Petitioners Solicitor, became the second time a prisoner, being apprehended by Edmond Dendy Esquire, Serjeant at Arms to the (then) Councell, and by him committed to the custody of Mr. Humphrey Holden, one of the Messengers attending

ing the same Councell, where he then remained two dayes, and one night, who demanding by whole Warrant and Authority he was restrained of the liberty held forth by the Law of the Land, to the free People of this Nation, was answered; That hee was detained by vertue of a Warrant issued forth in *August. 1652.* and the speciall directions of Major Gen. *Harrison.*

50. Mr. Gunter demands the cause of his imprisonment.

The said *John Gunter* having obtained a Copy of the said *Order*, and seriously considering of the same, did finde the tenour thereof to be meerly for bringing in his person to appeare, and answer before the former *Councell*, to such things as should be then and there objected against him. And in regard hee had satisfied that *Order* by his voluntary appearance and answer, and finding no *Order* for his restraint, but the very *Councell* it selfe dissolved, he did conceive that he ought not to be restrained of his liberty by colour of the said *Order*, or any other verball Command or Directions; Whereupon he was plainly told that hee must remaine a Prisoner, untill hee did obtaine an *Order* of discharge from the (then *Councell*) or from Major *Generall Harrison*; who being thus straitned, and not at all Committed by any *Order* of the then *Councell*; did direct a Letter to Major *Generall Harrison*, To this effect, *viz. That hee had bene exposed to extraordinary expence, and losse of time, and was much dammified by the causelesse prosecution of his servant Richard Creed, unto whose charge hee had long before put in a full and satisfactory Answer, before the former Councell, whereby their Order was fulfilled, and themselves sufficiently satisfied of his Innocency. And desired his Honour to consider how unusuall and destructive a course it was to the free People of this Nation, to be deprived of their just Liberties by verball commands, or otherwise on bare information, before a legall Triall, and Conviction; And therefore hoped hee should not be made the first president of that nature, since the establishment of that Government; But that his Honour and all other in Authority would be pleased to protect him, whilst hee behaved himselfe inoffensive towards their Government. Whereupon Major Generall Harrison, taking the Premisses into consideration, was pleased to give Order and Directions to the Serjent at Armes to discharge the said John Gunter, from his restraint and punishment.*

51. The Answer given him therein,

52. M. Gunters Letter to Major Generall Harrison, touching his Restraine.

53. Mr. Gunter afterwards discharged by Ma. Generall Harrisons direction.

D

Which

34. Mr. Gauer
received no
Reparation,
though dam-
nified above
1000 l.

Which being performed, notwithstanding though Mr. Gauer being of known integrity to the *Common-wealth*, yet by colour of this false Accusation (without proofs made against him, or any Tryall or Conviction) was debarred of the benefit of his *Profession*, in the execution of severall places, and employments wherein hee was intrusted; And hath not to this day Received any *Reparation* for his losses and dammages thereby sustained, though hee hath beene damnified every way above a thousand pound.

Having given you the true Relation of the whole Transacti-
on concerning the *Petition*, with the *Parliament Resolves*, and
severall *Orders* and *Reports* by the Committee for Plundered Mi-
nisters and others thereupon, with the manifold Obstructions
in the Prosecution thereof, both by severall miscarriages of
Clerks and other Agents. And the grievous Restrayment of
the *Petitioners* Councell, and Solicitors from their Liberties.
I passe on to the Particular Heads of the Charge put in by the
Petitioners.

II. The



II. *The Particular* CHARGE.

The Generall Heads of the PETITION
of the Six Counties of South-wales, and Countie of
Monmouth, together with the particulars therein con-
tained, Whereupon the Petitioners desire to have liber-
ty to examine Witnesses in the Countrey by Commis-
sion, where matter of Act ariseth, and the Witnesses
reside, according to the Resolves of Parliament of the
10 of March last, humbly presented to the Honourable
Committee for plundered Ministers.

The First Generall HEAD.

I. **T**HAT all or most of the *Ministers* of the Six Counties
 of *South-wales*, and Countie of *Monmouth*, have been
 ejected from their respective Benefices.]

More particularly,

In the Countie of *Monmouth* 53. and upwards, whereof 28. *Monmouth,*
 Masters of Arts, 15 Bachelors of Divinity, 10 Preaching Gra- 53.
 duates, and University-men, besides all those Curats and Stipen-
 daries that were employed to Preach and Officiate for Pluralists
 and Impropriators.

Ministers ejected 40. and upwards.

Whereof two Doctors of Divinity, three Batchelors of Di- *Glamorgan,*
 vinity, 16 Masters of art, 19 preaching Graduates and Universi- 40.
 D 2 tymen

tymen, besides Curats and Stipendaries employed to preach, and officiate for Pluralists and Impropriators.

Ministers ejected 32.

Brecknock,
32.

Whereof one Doctor of Divinity, three Batchelors of Divinity, 18 Masters of Art, 10 Graduates and Universitymen, besides Curats and Stipendaries employed to preach and officiate for Pluralists and Impropriators.

Ministers ejected 30 and upwards.

Radnor, 30.

Whereof one Doctor of Divinity, two Batchelors of Divinity, six Masters of Art, besides other Graduates, Curats, and Stipendaries, employed to preach, and officiate in other Churches and Chappells, and to supply the places of Pluralists and Impropriators.

Coermarthen
30.

Ministers ejected 30 and upwards.

Besides Curats and Stipendaries and other Graduates, and Universitymen employed to preach, and officiate for Pluralities, and Improprities.

Ministers ejected 20 and upwards.

Cardigan, 20.

Besides Curats and Stipendaries employed to preach, and officiate for Pluralists and Impropriators.

Ministers ejected thirty two, and upwards.

Pembrok, 32.

Consisting most of them, of able Preachers and Universitymen, and other Graduates, besides Curats, and Stipendaries employed and stipended to Preach and officiate for Pluralists, and Impropriators.

The Second Generall H E A D.

That few or none of the said *Countries* have been supplied, with a competent number of Godly able Teachers to officiate in the roomes of the oured *Ministers*, there being not above foure or five Itinerary Teachers, in some of the said *Counties* appointed, and approved of to Preach the *Gospel*; whereas some of the said *Counties* consist of 120. Parishes,

Parishes; and the least thereof consisting of 50. many whereof have therein above 2000 Soules: J

More particularly,

That the County of *Monmouth* hath in it 140 odd Parishes, to supply which Parishes, there are now of approved Orthodox Godly able Teachers and Ministers, resident, stipended and allowed of to preach and officiate, according to the Act of *Parliament* of the 22 of Feb. 1649. not above 20. *Monmouth not above 20.*

That the County of *Glamorgan* hath in it 151 Parishes, to supply which Parishes, there are now of approved Orthodox Godly able Teachers and Ministers resident, stipended and allowed of to preach and officiate, according to the Act of *Parliament*, of the 22 of Feb. 1649. not above twenty. *Glamorgan not above 20;*

That the County of *Brecon* hath in it 60 odd Parishes; to supply which there are now of approved Orthodox godly able Teachers and Ministers resident, stipended, and allowed to Preach and Officiate according to the said Act, not above 4. *Brecknock not above 4,*

That the County of *Radnor* hath in it 50 Parishes, to supply which Parishes there are now of approved Orthodox godly able Teachers and Ministers Stipended, allowed and approved of to preach and officiate, according to the said Act, not above 8. *Radnor not above 8::*

That the County of *Carmarthen* hath in it 81 Parishes, to supply which Parishes, there are now of approved Orthodox godly able Teachers and Ministers resident, stipended, allowed and approved of to preach and officiate, according to the said Act, not above 7. *Carmarthen not above 7*

That the County of *Cardigan* hath in it 60 odd Parishes, to supply which Parishes, there are now of approved Ministers qualified as aforesaid, not above 12. *Cardigan not above 12*

That the County of *Pembroke* hath in it 140 odd Parishes, to supply which Parishes, there are now of approved Orthodox godly able Teachers and Ministers resident, stipended and approved of to Preach and officiate, according to the said Act not above 30. *Pembroke not above 30;*

*The Third Generall H E A D.**Schools-
Masters.*

That there hath not been provided such a convenient number of good Schooles, for the education of Children, and advancement of Learning as was intended by the *Parliament*, and the true purport of the said *Act*.]

*More particularly,**Monmouth
not above 3.*

That in the County of *Monmouth* there are not above three Godly able *School-masters* stipended, qualified, allowed, and approved of, according to the said *Act*, having therein 140 odd Parishes as aforesaid.

*Glamorgan
not above 4,*

Not above foure, having therein 151 Parishes as aforesaid.

*Brecknock
not above 3,*

Not above three, having therein 60 odd Parishes as aforesaid.

*Radnor not
above 3,*

Radnor not above three, having therein 50 Parishes as aforesaid.

*Carmarthen
not above 2,*

Not above two, having therein 81 Parishes as aforesaid.

*Penbrook not
above 3,*

Not above three, having therein 140 odd Parishes as aforesaid.

*Cardigan not
above 3.*

Not above three, having therein 60 odd Parishes as aforesaid.

The fourth generall Head.

That some persons deriving authority from the said *Act*, have for above two yeeres last past received and disposed of the Tythes, Glebes, Improvements, Tenths, Portions of tythes, Rents reserved, Colledge Penfions, and other Benefices and Ecclesiasticall Livings and Promotions whatsoever within the six Counties of *South-wales* and County of *Monmouth* annually worth 20000. l. or thereabout.] viz.

That Col: *Thomas Harrison*, Col: *Philip Jones*, Col: *John Jones*,

(3)

John, Sir John Trevor Knight, Henry Herbert Esq. Will: Herbert, Will: Parker, Will: Blothin, Christopher Kitchmay, and the rest of the Commissioners named in the said Act, to execute the severall powers therein contained, were thereby impowred and entrusted by themselves and others deriving authority from them, to receive and dispose of all and singular the Rents, Issues of all and every the Rectories, Vicaridges, Donatives *sine Curia*, Portions of Tenths, and other Ecclesiasticall Livings, which all the time of passing the said Act then were or then after should be in the disposing of the Parliament, or any others deriving authority from them. As also to receive and dispose of the Rents, Issues and Profits of all Improvements and Glebe-lands within the said Counties, which then were or then after should be under Sequestration, or in the disposall of the Parliament by virtue of any former Statute, or any Act or Ordinance of this present Parliament. The particular valuations of the said respective Tythes and premisses within the said respective Counties are as followeth, *viz.*

The Tythes, Tenths, Portions of tythes, Glebes, Improvements, Rents reserved, Colledge Pensions, and other Ecclesiasticall Livings, Procurations, Promotions, &c. in the county of *Monmouth*, annually worth 4500 l.

Monmouth:

The Tythes and premisses annually worth 4500 l.

Glamorgan:

The Tythes and Premises annually worth 2500 l.

Brecknock:

The Tythes and Premises annually worth 2000 l.

Radnor:

The Tythes and Premises annually worth 2000 l.

Carmarthen:

The Tythes and Premises annually worth 1000 l.

Cardigan:

The Tythes and Premises annually worth 3500 l.

Pembroke.

Which in the whole comes to the intire summe of 20000 l. per ann.

And the better to satisfie your Honours of the reall valuations of the said Tythes and premisses, the Petitioners are so far from overvaluing the same, that they shall and will be ready, and doe hereby offer your Honours to give good security for the said Tythes and premisses within the said seven counties 20000 l. per ann. so as they may have, collect and enjoy the same with the same power and authority, and in the same beneficiall manner as the

the said Commissioners and their Agents have received, made or raised, or might have received, made or raised the same, and the respective Inhabitants, &c. will be well contented to farms their owne respective Tythes, and other the premisses proportionably according to this offer and valuation made by the Petitioners. The said offer of the Petitioners being 20000*l.* more in two years, then the Commissioners account in their generall answer:

The fift generall Head.

5. That little of the said Tythes and premisses have been converted towards the propagation of the Gospel, or accounted for to the State.]

The Petitioners Will make this evident,

1. That no *Accompt* at all was given or rendred the Parliament of the said Tythes and premisses, untill the Petition was preferred.

2. That the accompt given in by the Commissioners in answer to the *Petition* is onely in generall, not expressing in particular what profit of the Tythes and premisses they received, nor out of what, nor how disposed, save onely an acknowledgement of the receipt of 20000*l.* or thereabouts, which the Petitioners humbly pray they may doe. And the Petitioners having a copy thereof, and convenient time, are ready to exhibit a particular surcharge, the Petitioners having not yet obtained a copy of the generall answer and accompt brought in to the Clerk of the said Honourable Committee, although the Petitioners by their Agents used their endeavour therein, Master *Phelps* having answered the *Petitioners Agents*, that the said Answer was sealed up, and order given him, that no copy thereof should be given the *Petitioners* or their *Agents*.

3. The Petitioners will also make it apparent, that little of the said Tythes and premisses have been converted to the propagation of the Gospel, or accounted for to the State.

By these few qualified stipended Teachers, Ministers, & School-masters imployed and stipended to teach and officiate.

4. By

By the small Bishops and Salaries allowed them out of the Tythes and Premises, whereof some have fully complained.

5. By the small allowances for 5th paid to the ejected Ministers wives, though allowed according to the full value by the Act of Parliament.

The Sixth General H E A D.

6. That the Tithes and Premises for the two last yeares have beene set out at undervalues, to the prejudice of the State.]

1. The *Petitioners* will make good, That not one Vicaridge, Rectory, or other of the Impropriat Tithes and Premises, but have been let out at undervalues in every particular Parish. But because the *Petitioners* are desirous to give your Honours a more particular satisfaction therein, they doe for instance name, and particularize,

That the Rectory of *Llanvonn Uawre*, in the County of *Brecon*, being valued by apprizers upon Oath at 100 l. per annum, yet set out at 55 l. per annum, though 80 l. per annum hath beene offered for it, and sufficient security for payment, of the Rent, out of which the 5th and contribution being deducted the State will have but a small proportion out of the same.

The Glebe is worth 4 l. 10 s. per annum, and so much would have beene given for it, yet set out at 40 s. per annum.

The Vicaridge of *Glasbury*, in the County of *Brecon*, and *Radnor* being worth 100 l. per ann. and upwards, is set out at 50 l. per ann. Though 80 l. per annum was offered to be paid for the same, and once assented unto, and security offered for payment of the Rent, and to include the fifths within the 80 l. so that the fifths and contributions being deducted out of the Rent now paid for the same, the State will have the least proportion thereof.

That the Vicaridge of *Devynnog* is worth 120 l. per annum, and upwards, yet set out at 60 l. per annum, and contributions thereout paid.

E

That

That the Vicaridge of Llanell is worth 50 l. per annum, yet set out at 15 l. per annum.

That John Rice offered for the Tiths of Llangunnur 30 l. per annum, yet the same hath bene let by John Hughes the Sequestrator, to his own brother at 15 l. and thereout the fifts and contributions deducted, whereby the State is defrauded.

That the Impropritate Churches of Chirchhowell, Llangeney, Llangatock, Llanell, Cumdy, &c. situate in the County of Bracon, Sequestred for the Delinquency of Edward earle of Worcester are worth 350 l. per annum, and 300 l. would have been given for it, yet let out for 150 l. per ann.

That the Rectory of Llanell, Llawdenylogg, Llangendirne, Llannon and Pembrey, with the Chappells annexed, situate in the County of Carmarthen, parcell of the estate of the Lord Percey, let out to Henry Vaughan Esquire, late Sir Henry Vaughan Knight, a Delinquent, at 60 l. per annum, well worth 800 l. per annum and upwards, and so much would be given for the same.

The Tyths of Sleynton, worth 50 l. per annum, set out at 25 l. per ann.

The Tyths of Hubbarston are worth 70 l. per annum, let out for 25 l.

The Tyths of Llangam worth 60 l. per annum, set out at 30 l. per annum.

The Tyths of Twynnells, worth 28 l. per annum, set out at 8 l. per annum to Mr. White a neer Kinsman to the sequestrator.

The Tyths of Hodston, worth 50 l. per annum, set out at 28 l. per annum.

The Vicaridge of Munclon worth 30 l. per annum, set out un-to M. John Lort, brother to Sampson Lort, one of the Commissioners for Propagation at 10 l. per ann.

The Tyths of Warren worth 80 l. per annum, and set out to the said John Lort at 35 l. per ann.

The Tyths of Castle Martin, worth 50 l. per annum, set out un-to the said Roger White at 24 l. per ann.

Rhayader worth 40 l. per annum, set out at 25 l.

St. Harmon, worth 50 l. per annum, set out at 24 l.

Hyepp, worth 50 l. per annum, set out at 25 per ann.

Llan.

Llangwilly, worth 32 l. per annum, set out at 25 l. per annum.

Kreventers, worth 80 l. per annum, and set out at 60 l. per annum.

Llanbadarn Vawr, worth 80 l. per annum, set out at 60 l. per annum.

Witten, worth 30 l. per annum, set out at 15 l. per annum.

Blethbach worth 86 l. per annum, set out at 35 l. per annum.

Casob worth 40 l. per annum, set out at 25 l. per annum.

New Radnor worth 80 l. per annum, set out at 30 l. per annum.

Bochrwd, and *Llanbader* worth 120 l. per annum, set out at 80 l.

Glandestrey worth 70 l. per annum, set out at 40 l. per annum.

Bryngwyn worth 70 l. per annum, set out at 40 l. per annum.

New Church, worth 28 l. per annum, set out at 14 l. per annum.

Diffrth and *Beitau*, worth 80 l. per annum, set out at 35 l.

Aberdowry, worth 120 l. per annum, set out at 80 l. per annum.

The Tyths of *Cherrington*, in the County of *Glamorgan*, worth 100 l. per annum, and upwards, set out by Col. Jones servant to Mr. William Bassett at 35 l. per annum, and contributions, and fifths thereout deducted, whereof the State is defrauded 75 l. per annum.

The Tyths of *Bishopston*, in the said County, worth 120 l. per annum and upwards, and 60 l. offered for it, set out at 45 l. per annum, and contributions thereout, deducted, whereby the State hath the least part thereof.

Lambder Vicaridge in the County of *Pembroke*, worth 140 l. per annum, set out at 60 l. per annum, to M. John Elliott, and Morrice Bateman.

Llandisillio Vicaridge (for so much of it as lies in the County of *Pembroke*) worth 6 l. 6 s. 8 d. set out to Morrice Morgan at 3 l. 10 s.

Llanvikeg Castle Dore in the County of *Carmarthen*, worth 100 l. per annum, set out at 40 l. per annum, and Taxations thereout allowed.

The Vicaridge of *Elanvill*, worth 40 l. per annum, and upwards, set out at 22 l. per annum.

The Vicaridge of *Llangamarch*, worth 60 l. per annum, set out at 34 l. per ann.

The Vicaridge of *Llanwranny*, worth 80 l. per annum; and upward; set out at 30 l. per annum, and contributions thereout paid, and the Parishioners could not Farme the same though they offered for it 44 l. and to pay all Taxations, and Contributions.

Lanbeder in the County of *Cardigan*, worth 50 l. a year, set out at 30 l. per annum.

Nantgwalls worth 20 l. per annum, set out at 10 l. per annum, and contributions thereout paid, and the Parishioners could not have the same, though they offered 15 l. for the same, and to pay contributions besides.

The Tythe of the Parish of *Tredrack* valued at 60 l. per annum, and so much offered, with good security for payment thereof, yet let out at 28 l. per ann.

The Improprate Tythe of *Llandilio Grosven* (late the Earl of *Worcesters*) worth 100 l. per annum, set out to *Nich. Symons* at 60 l. per annum, although the *Petitioners* offered 95 l. per ann. paying contributions.

The Tythe of *Llanvetherine*, worth 100 l. per annum, & the Parishioners offered 80 l. per annum for it, yet let out at 60 l. per annum to one *Charles Godard*, his wife being *Mr. Cradock's* neere Kinswoman.

The Tythe of *Gresmont* worth 100 l. per annum, and so offered by the Parishioners, but let out to a brother of one of the *Commissioners* for Propagation at 10 l. per annum, and so for the rest and residue for all Parishes within the said Counties, being every where set out at under values.

25.

Secondly, the *Petitioners* will prove that the said Tythes and Premises have not been posted up, and publicly exposed to Farme to the Parishioners, and particular owners and others that would have given most for the same, as is usuall in Improving and advancing other Rents and publique Revenues, disposable by the *Parliament*, and others Authorized by them.

3. By letting the same to Friends, Kindred, Creatures and alliance of the Sequestrators and others intrusted, with the letting thereof.

thereof as some have been before particularly influenced by name, and divers others that might be named.

The Seventh Generall HEAD.

7. That for want of the due Execution of the said Act, the *Petitioners* together with the *Inhabitants*, endure a famine of the Word of God.]

More particularly,

1. By the scarcity of the persons stipended, allowed and appointed to preach and officiate

2. By allowing persons to preach and officiate that have borne actual Armes against the *Parliament*, and other ill affected persons to the *Parliament*; (v. Z.)

One *Hugh Rogers* of the County of *Monmouth*, who hath been in actual Armes against the *Parliament*; and so continued whilst the late King had any visible strength or interest in the Nation to protect him, and others of his Confederates of the same Principles; The said *Hugh Rogers* being one that did formerly revile and vilify the *Parliament*, and *Army*, and all the godly party and their proceedings.

That *Robert Prichard* Parson of *Neverne*, hath during the late Wars. deserted his habitation, joyned with the enemy, and acted with Captaine *Edward Lloyd* his Father in Law in *Kidwelly Castle* against the *Parliament*, and as it is generally believed hath not yet subscribed the Engagement, yet allowed and benefited.

That one *Hughes* of the County of *Carmarthen*, being a person disaffected to the *Parliament*, and present Government, and one that joyned with the enemy in the late Rebellion of *Poyer*, &c. against the *Parliament*, is permitted and allowed to preach and officiate, and holds one or two Benefices; whereas divers others that never bore Armes against the *Parliament* are ejected on very slender accompt, particularly *Mr Nicholson*, *M. Evans*, *Mr. Thomas*, *Mr. Powell*, *Mr. Hatley*, *Doctor Edwards*, *Mr. Griffiths*, and others.

That one *Thomas Price* of the County of *Cardigan* was seized by the Bishop since the refusing of that County to the obedience of the Parl. and one that hath kept an Alehouse, and a great frequenter of Alehouses.

3. The Inhabitants endure a famine of the Word of God, by reason severall other persons now imployed and stipended to preach and officiate that are deboysh, drunken persons, scandalous in their lives and conversations.]

More particularly,

Thomas Field of the County of *Pembroke*, *John Phillips* of the same, *David Evans* of the County of *Cardigan*, *William Jones* of the County of *Brecon*, *William Jones* of the County of *Monmouth*, and severall others that might be instanced, insomuch that the Inhabitants are much discouraged to repaire to their meetings and exercises.

4. The Inhabitants indure a Famine of the Word of God by reason of severall illiterate persons that are of different opinions, that doe teach and officiate, causing great rents and divisions among their Auditories, and severall contestations and disturbances, to the endangering the peace of the County.

More particularly,

At *Myniddv-stayns* on Munday in Easter week last; at *Bedways* on Low-Easter Sunday; at *Swansey*, at *Morshir*, and other places: at some of which differences and disturbances there have been severall swords drawne, and some hurt, and the Inhabitants put to a great feare, lest these differences doe grow wider, to the endangering of the publique peace of the Country.

By which means the Inhabitants are very much disheartned and discouraged from comming to their Meetings, which are so remote and uncertaine, that the aged, lame, impotent, and poorer sort that are not provided with horses, cannot, and many thousands know not where or how to come to those places where they exercise their meetings, being sometimes ten, sometimes twenty miles, and sometimes more from some parts of a County, and one while in one County and another while in another County, and but very few in any one place constant: So that a man on a Lords day may ride twenty miles through a county,

county, and not see a Church doors open, supplied with a constant, able, godly Minister.

More particularly,

In the county of *Bracon*, there are above fifty Parish Churches (besides Chappels) that for above this twelvemonech have not been supplied with a constant preaching Minister, and at this very time on most Lords dayes there are above fifty Churches that are shut up and unsupplied.

5. That in the Parishes of *Llanvibangell Nantbrans*, *Llandilervan*, *Trallogne*, the Colledge of *Bracon*. (where formerly there was a Lecture once a fortnight) and many other Churches, the Word of God hath not been taught these two years.

That the Towne of *Bracon*, being one of the chiefest Corporations, and most populous in *South Wales*, the Towne of *Crickhowell*, the Towne of the *Hay* and *Buick*, being all Market towns in the said County, there have not been any one constant able Teacher or Minister for two years last past. And divers other townes and parishes in *South Wales* which might be instanced, whereby the people are much exposed, and the greater opportunity offered them to profane the Lords day, and spend the same in Alehouses, and other leud places, to the great dishonouring of God, and endangering the soules and consciences of the Inhabitants thereof.

6. That the persons named and intrusted for Approvers by the said Act of *Fabr. 1649*. doe live very remote one from another, some in *North-wales*, some in *South-wales*, and one of them in *London*, who being also Itinerant Teachers, which makes their residence unconstant, they doe meet but seldome to receive, entertain, and incourage others to come in and offer themselves to supply the rooms of the ejected Ministers, without whose approbation none can be admitted. Whereas the Commissioners in order to ejecting of the Ministers, and disposing of the Tythes and premisses, doe sit frequently by five, but by twelve for Appeals but very seldome.

Ths.

The Eighth general Head.

8. That Children are not bred and educated in the Instruction and information of the Lord.]

The Petitioners will make that good.

1. By reason of few Othodox godly able Teachers and Ministers are employed to preach and officiate in each County.

2. Because the good worke of *Catechizing* Children, and Instructing them in the information of the Lord is wholly laid aside in all, or most Parishes and Counties.

3. By reason so few godly *Schools-masters* are allowed, and stipended for that purpose, and some of those employed and allowed of, are unfit for to undergoe, or be employed in so great and weighty a businesse.

More particularly,

One *Phillip William*, That is a young man of no competent learning for a *Schools-master*, yet nevertheless appointed head *Schools-master*, in the Colledge of *Brecon*. being one of the chiefest Townes in *South-wales*, and that one *Hugh Powell* is his Usher or Assistant (who indeed is the onely able man for learning) being a known Papist, and one that hath formerly bred up many Children in Popery, to the grieve and discomforture of their Parents, yet in the face of Towne and Country allowed to officiate there.

That one *David Evans* a stipended allowed *Schools-master*, at *New Radnor* (being the Shire Towne of that County) is a drunken deboyst man.

Hugh Jones of the County of *Glamorgan* the like. Besides divers others that might be instanced, whereby the Inhabitants are kept back, from sending their Children to be trained up in Religion and Learning, by such ill qualified Tutors.

The

these are Malicious, and bore Arms against the Parishes
The Ninth Generall H E A D.

That the Inhabitants cannot take notice of the *Parliaments*
Acts, Edicts, and Proclamations, wherein their publicke
welfare, the liberty and safety of their persons and estates
are concerned.

1. For want of a convenient number of *Ministers* in the re-
spective Counties, by whom the same ought to be read and pub-
lished to the respective Parishioners and Inhabitants.

2. By reason that some of the Inhabitants are so ignorant, that
they cannot read the *Acts of Parliament* (for instance, *When* the
Act of Parliament for publick Thanksgiving for the Victory ob-
tained at *Worcester*, against the late King of *Scots*, was sent
down to the County of *Glanorgany*, to be publickly read in all
Churches and Chappells, as the Inhabitants, the *Act* being de-
livered to one *Walter Williams* to be read on that day, the said
Walter Williams answered that he could not read the same.

An Abstract of the Particulars.

- 1. **M**inisters ejected in the seven Counties; Besides Curats
and Stipendaries, employed to preach and officiate for
Pluralists and Impropriators Chappells of ease.
- 2. The number of the Parishes within the said seven Coun-
ties.
- 3. The number of the present Stipended, allowed *Ministers* to
supply those Parishes.

237 and
upwards.

700 and
odd.

Not above
100.

So that there are 600 Parishes unsupplied.

- 4. The number of the present allowed, Stipended *School-*
Masters.
- 5. The value of the Tythes, &c. received for the maintenance
of *Ministers* and *School-masters*.
- 6. That several of the *Ministers* and *School-masters* now
Stipended, are drunken deboylt persons, some illiterate, others

Not above
18.

20000 l. per
annum, and
upwards.

(34) 20
that are Malignant, and bore Arms against the Parli-
ament.

7. The Tythes, &c. undervalued in all Parishes within the 7.
Counties and the Commissioners account only for two yeeres
but of ~~19000 l. or thereabouts.~~

Which is less than the *Parishioners* Charge and Offer
by ~~25000 l. or thereabouts.~~

These were the Particulars faithfully transcribed, and Copied
out of the Original; which were put in and lodged with the
Committee.

And because there is discovered an effectual Letter, under
Mr. William Watkins's own hand (being Register to the *Commis-*
sioners in Brecknockshire, and Radnorshire, Clerk of the Peace
under Major Gen. Harrison, within the said County of Breck-
nock, And lately servant to Colonel Phillip Jones, who wrote
all the *Commissioners* Orders; And had speciall influence upon the
Sequestrators, and their Agents, Received the Tythes of Bockward to
his owne use, and set out the Vicaridge of Glasbury, being worth
2 100 l. a yeare to his Carpenter for 30 l. a yeare,) which he
wrote to Mr. Jenkins Jones, one of the *Itinerants* in Breck-
nockshire; I could not pretermitt to insert the same to common
view.

A Copy of Mr. William Watkins
LETTER, to
Mr. Jenkin Jones.

Dear Sir,

81
The twelve pound may be thus got. The *Sequestrators*
is to take them up from Mr. Lewis, and when the
money is Received, you may safely pay them, where you
please.

please, because it is such an Arrere that the Treasurer knoweth not of, for it lieth not in Charge before him.

If Mr. Lewis denyeth what hee confessed, Let the Sequestrator shew him the inclosed Note.

8. Novemb. 1651.

For Mr. William Jones, and Captaine
Morgan Sequestrators.

IT is conceived that there is three or foure yeares Rent due, upon Meredith Lewis Esq. for the Prebendary of Llanvthul, He confessed to be due for one yeare, and told so to me about a moneth since,

Your Servant,

William Watkins.

And this was added in the Perclaufe of the
Letter to Mr. Jenkins Jones.

IF that will not doe, then let the Sequestrators demand a sight of his Acquittances since the yeare 1642. And then you shall find him out,

8. Novemb.

1651.

Your Servant,

Will. Watkins.

Here is Mr. *William Watkins* his Directions to Mr. *Jenkin Jones*, to get *Twelve pounds* ; and that hee dispose of it as hee please ; being an Arrears, which the Treasurer knew not of ; And hee gives the Reason for it, *For a lay not in charge before him.*] And lest Mr. *Jones* should any way escape the payment, hee betrayes the Gentlemans confession to him ; and guides the *Sequestrators* to finde him out by former Acquaintances.

Here is a pretty Trick indeed, who could with a neater contrivance to hide out Mr. *William Watkins*, or a more evident Demonstration, to descry to publike view, How a man bearing such Offices, and so specially intrusted in the Common wealth, doth thus notoriously betray the trust committed unto him ? But (*Ex angustis Exiimus*) I leave to the judgement of all conscientious Men to understand how plaine the State hath beene defrauded by such Plots ; And what secret Correspondencies there are betweene Captaine *Jenkin Jones*, and his Lieutenant, Mr. *William Watkins* to advance their Estates in the way of gainfull godlinesse, appeares by their businesse in the County, and City of *Gloucester*, where above a 100 Horse and Armes were raysed (at the late comming in of the King of Scots to *Worcester*) which they both mounted with their owne Men, and though they promised to restore the same againe upon their returne to the owners, yet they carried Horse and Armes to *Brecknockshire*, and never restored them back, which is worth his Highnesse consideration.

And so I proceed to the last part, which is, The Commissioners Answer, and the Petitioners Reply.

III. The

III. The ANSWER of

Col. Phillipp Fones. Busby Mansell. John Price.
Rowland Danks. Edward Stradling. John
Nicholas. James Phillips. Thomas Watkins. Robert
Fones. Sampson Lort. Fenkin Francklyn. Rich. King.
Rice Williams. William Blethin. John Daniell.
John Roberts. John Bowen. Christopher Catchmay,
Esquires. Commissioners for Propagation of the
Gospel in Wales, and the Reply of the Petitioners of the
Six Counties of South Wales, & County of Monmouth
thereunto, lodged with the Committee for Plun-
dered Ministers the 20 of August. 1652. and there
Remaining of Record.

The Commissi-
oners Answer to the
Petitioners particular
Heads.

The Petitioners Re-
ply, to the Commissio-
ners Answer.

I. Ans.

THat there were none
ejected, but in obedience
to the Act, and upon clear
grounds, and those that con-
ceived themselves unjustly
dealt with had their free course
of

I. Rep.

THat there were divers ejectioned contrary to the Act
without due summons, and ex-
amination of Witnesses, and Co-
pies of Orders, Depositions, Pi-
peters and other proceedings de-
nied.

of appeals to this Committee, whether came one from Monmouthshire, but had the judgement against him affirmed, though he were in our opinion as meet for favour as any we proceeded against.

nied them, whereby they were barred of their free counse for appeal to this Honourable Committee, And if the Commissioners shewed so little favour unto the one that did appeale (who is namelesse) though he in their own judgement and opinion was

as meet for favour as almost any they proceeded against (as by their Answer appeares) what could the rest expect? And therefore no marvels if they appealed not to 12, where 3 of those that first gave judgement against them, sit to confirme the same. And so much the rather, because some of the Commissioners have publicly declared against the very calling and function of the *Ministry*.

2. Answer

There are yet remaining unjected (127) and upwards of the old Ministers.

that many of those that are left unjected, have beene greater Delinquents against the *Parliament*, and more scandalous in their lives and conversations, then many of those Ejected,

2. Reply.

That there are not unjected of the old *Ministers*, the number of one hundred twenty seven as by the Answer is alleadged, And

Commis. Ans. to the 2. Head.
1. Ans.

That We have not refused nor been wanting to give encouragement to any godly man fitted for the Ministry that was tendered unto us.

Pet. Reply.

The *Petitioners* humbly conceive that the Commissioners have not discharged their duties (in not refusing, and not being wanting to give encouragement to any godly man fitted for the

Ministry that was tendered them) (admitting that to be true.) But rather it was their duty to provide such godly able men, as well as to oust those that were unworthy, according to the trust in them reposed by the *Parliament*. And the *Petitioners* do affirme that the Commissioners have refused and rejected some that

that have been approved by this Honourable Committee particularly Mr. Collier, Mr. Bywater and others; And the persons named for approved in the Act (being Itinerants, and living remote one from another) meet but very seldom to entertaine and incourage godly men to tender themselves unto them. Whereas all possible diligence is used in ejection of the *Ministers*, and disposing of the Tythes, And have silenced Mr. Matthew Williams a godly able man, that preached *grain* and had so done for many yeares before, not expecting any temporall reward, the Commissioners having no proofes of Delinquency or scandall against him, so that it is more then apparent their designe tends to the excirpation both of the *Ministers* and *Ministry*.

2 Answer.

That wee have by speciall Messengers, Letters, and by all other means laboured with the Churches of Christ in New England, London, and the Universities, for a supply, and through the goodnesse of God have already procured seaven-ty five: besides the (127) above mentioned left unobjected) approved able Ministers to preach the Gospell in those parts, that are most English, besides about (60) godly gifted men, that by the advice of the Ministers, named in the Act are appointed to preach to the Welch. And there are about (80) more with us, which go about preaching the Gospell with great successe in the Welsh Tongue. But taking no maintenance from the tythes

2 Reply.

That the *Petitioners* humbly conceive that the Commissioners (had they been so pleased) might have found divers persons better qualified, and more fit for the worke of the *Ministry*, then many of those by them employed not onely in New England, London, and the Universities, but neerer home, but that the Tythes and Premises were of no small advantage to the Commissioners Agents, and the Farmers thereof. And as for the (75) 60) and 80) Ministers and Teachers alleaged to be now employed, and stipended, besides the (127) pretended to be unobjected, which in all make (342) The *Petitioners* do Averre, and will make it appeare, if it please this Honourable Committee to give way, that there are not above (100) orthodox godly

we forbear to mention them. And though there are not as many able Teachers as we could wish, and are in a hopefull way of procuring, yet we may with safety say, the least County hath many more then by the Petition is suggested.

any better performance for the time to come; since their proceedings for nigh (3) years hath taken so small effect.

The Commissioners 3. Anf.

That we have endeavoured all we could to procure godly Schoole-masters from the University &c. and have settled, and doe maintaine (29) which with those before in being make up (50) And are disposed into Market Townes, and other places most convenient within the said Counties.

scandalous in their lives and conversations, and one of them a Papist if not a Jesuite employed assistant or Usher in the Towne of Brecon, and others ill affected persons to the Parliament, and present Government, as by their particulars more fully appareth; And that severall Market Townes in the respective Counties are unsupplied with able School-masters, to the decay of Religion and Learning: viz. Chrishowell, Hay, Buile, Carmarthen, and other places.

The Commissioners 4. Anf.

That there are above 478 Parishes impropriated Parsonages and Vicaridges with

in

godly able Ministers (if made many) stipended, allowed and approved of according to the Act to supply the 7 Counties, consisting of (700) Parishes, And as for the Commissioners hopes of further supply of Ministers for the future, The Petitioners have little cause to hope, or believe

The Petitioners 3. Reply.

That whereas the Commissioners pretend there are (50) godly Schoole-masters settled and maintained by them in the seven Countees; The Petitioners doe averre and will make it appear there are not above (18) godly able Schoole-masters stipended, allowed, and approved of, according to the Act within the said 7 Counties, and severall others drunken debaish persons,

Petitioners 4. Reply.

The Petitioners doe deny there are 478 Parishes impropriated, &c. unsequestred, as by the Com-

in the said Counties, unsequestred. (2.) That for those that have been sequestred we have been exceeding carefull to choose and intrust for each yeare honest, and reasonable men for Collectors in each County, and one Treasurer for the whole, that the accompts might be in the clearest way to be delivered upon the determination of the Act, or sooner if called for: As to the value in the Petition mentioned, though we tooke great care to appoint honest able men Agents, for the letting and setting in each County. We finde they could not raise the whole Revenue of the Sequestred Tythes of the seven Counties to, but (9518 l.) (5 s.) 8 d.) for the yeare (1650.) And for the yeare 1651. but (10418) 5 s.) 2 d.) And humbly conceive that more thereof could not be then made, out of which there is paid to Ministers, Schoole-masters, and others, according to the intent of the Act for Propagating of the Gospel, in the yeare 1650 the sum of (7923 l.) 13 s.) 5 d.) And for the yeare 1651 in part the sum of (5894 l.) 9 s.) 10 d.) the remainder whereof being for the yeare 1650:

the

Commissioners answer is aledged; But acknowledge the Commissioners have been carefull in employing Collectors, Treasurers and other Agents, in the respective Counties to let, set, receive and dispose of the Tythes and Premises, who have since their employments, improved their own Estates so well, that in so short a time many of them have become great purchasers; And it appears by the Commissioners owne Answer, that they make accompt to the Parliament but for (19936 l.) 10 s) 10 d) for the yeares 1650, and 1651, although the Petitioners doe affirme that the Tythes, and Premises within the said 7 Counties are annually worth 20000 l. and have, and doe hereby offer so much for the same, and what hath bene paid out of the Premises to Ministers, and Schoole-masters, will more fully appeare by the Commissioners particular accompt, which the Petitioners have not yet seene, but pray a sight and Copy thereof, and liberty to surcharge the same. And for the sum of 1594 l. 12 s. 3 d) for the yeare 1650, and 4523 l. 15 s. 4 d. for 1651. that resteth (as they say) in the Tenants hands in arreare. The Petitioners doe averre, that if any be unpaid, it resteth in the hands of

G

such

(42)

the sum of (1594 l.) 13 s.)
 3 d.) and for the years 1651)
 4543 l.) 15 s.) 4 d) rest-
 eth in the Tenants hands, so
 that the Ministers Probati-
 oners are not paid up their full
 salaries, for the years 1651.
 Nor some for the years 1650.
 And the Fifts and Contribu-
 tions not fully knowne, nor
 allowed.

such as are friends to the Com-
 missioners, or their Agents,
 who for reasons best knowne to
 themselves, did not use their
 wonted rigidness in Collecting,
 and Receiving the same, as hath
 been shewne to others of further
 Relation; who have beene
 forced to pay the treble values
 of their Tithes, and how well
 the Commissioners have dispo-
 sed of the vast revenue aforesaid,

may appeare by their Answer annexed, wherein they complaine
 of want of monies to pay the *Ministers* approbationers; who are
 not paid up their full Salaries for the years 1650. nor some
 for the years 1651. though on due examination it will appeare,
 that some of the Itinerants have not above 10 or 20 l. *per*
annuum. And the fifts and contributions not fully knowne, or
 allowed as by the Commissioners Answer is ingeniously con-
 fessed; Whereas one of the Commissioners, Major Generall
Harrison, not long since openly confessed before your Ho-
 nours, that there was a Banke of money in *South-wales*; And
 when the Fifts and Contributions are paid, and allowed what
 will accrue to the State is left to your Honours consideration.
 And what hope the *Petitioners* have of a future supply of *Mi-*
nisters and *Schools-Masters*, for the 600 Parishes that are all
 destitute of *Ministers*, according to the Commissioners pro-
 mise in their precedent Answer Particular (2) when in
 this particular part of their Answer, relating to actompts,
 they complaine of wanting Monies to pay these few, and in-
 considerate number of *Ministers*, and *Schools-Masters* now
 employed, especially when the Fifts and Contributions are paid
 and allowed; By all which it may appeare to this Honourable
 Committee, the truth of the *Petition*, in relation to the aforesaid
 Charge.

The

The Commissioners

5. Answer.

To say nothing of the 127 unjettled, we have taken care to disperse the Ministers above mentioned, paid out of the Treasury over the Counties as equally, and conveniently as we might wish due respect had to the carrying on the Works of God, and the particular inclination of the Peoples spirit, and through singular mercy to the Word of God, hath in these last yeares bene more frequently, and with more successe preached then in many Ages before, whereunto wee doubt not but those that have lately travelled through this poore Countrey, will heare witness.

the distraction of the minds, and consciences of the people.

The Commissioners

6. Answer.

We have been very carefull that it might not be so, but where it otherwise happened it was upon some of these insuing reasons.

1. That most part of the yeare 1650. and in some places much of the yeare 1651. was spent and most of the profits rayzed by the scandalous pre-

The Petitioners

5. Reply.

That they have so dispersed them, that a man may ride 20 miles together on the Lords day, and not finde one doore open, supplied with a constant able godly Minister, and how the Works and Word of God hath bene propagated in those parts the two last yeares, the Petitioners doe appeale to all indifferent unbiaised Men, and especially to the Judges and other publique Officers, who are and have been employed by the State there, and can give a further relation of the sad condition of those Countreies, and what rents, divisions, and disturbances of the publique peace have bene made in those parts, since the Itinaries were employed there to

The Petitioners

6. Reply.

1. How carefull they have bene therein appeares by the particulars preferred to your Honours by the Petitioners, which they are ready to prove, who doe further affirme that a great number of the Ministers were ejected by the Committees of Sequestration, in the respective Countreies in the yeares (1647)

presented Ministers before they were ejected.

2. For better satisfaction of the Countrey and carrying on the Works of the Lord without offence to the people, We took order that the Sequestred Tythes &c. should be let to the Parishioners, that every man might enjoy what came from his owne Land, at somewhat a lower rate, in case they would take it, then to any particular Farmour.

3. In some cases where the ejected Minister was much in debt, and had a great family, and no other Estate, and had Fifts due to his Wife, he or some of them was admitted Tennant at somewhat an undervalue, to answer these considerations.

4. Vicaridges that were heretofore in respect of Easter-booke offering, &c. received of the Papists considerable are now little worth.

5. The considerations had to Taxes, Reparations, and other incident charges, besides the generall disgust against Tythes, and the disturbance put upon our Countrey by malignants at home, at the least Invasion of the Enemy, and since by the promoters of the Petition, by reason of all which

we

1648. and part of 1649. which lay under Sequestration, when the Commissioners for propagation were impowered by the said Act, who acted so vigorously in the years 1650. that all or most of the Tythes and Premises of the value aforesaid were Sequestred in that yeare, who have or might have received the same.

2. To this the Petitioners say, That since the exhibiting of their Petition, the Commissioners have made a formall Order, that the Inhabitants should farme their owne Tythes for the ensuing harvest, thinking thereby to pacifie the people for the former indirect carriages, and to prevent their prosecution of the Petition; But how well ever this new salver hath wrought, and beene persued can be testified by thousands of the poore Inhabitants, who have received little or no benefit thereby, the Commissioners Agents still farming their Tythes to their Friends, and Creatures at their former undervalluer.

3. That neither the Ministers debts, nor yet the charge of Children, nor Family would induce the Commissioners, and their Agents to grant reasonable bargaines to them, nor yet their Fifts according to the Act: unless

we have found it no small difficulty, to bring them to the rate they are at.

leffe to such of them that were especially befriended : and some could not have their Fifths, except they ingaged to forbear the execution of their *Ministry*, and some had speciall allowance for not preaching.

4. That although the Inhabitants have little encouragement, or any reason to pay any Tithes, or any Offerings at all save only in Obedience to the *Parliaments* Authority, having so little spirituall comfort administred to them for their Tythes and Offerings, yet the Commissioners Agents have not been wanting in the exact gathering of the Tithes and Offerings, not omitting the very Tithe Eggs.

5. That the Commissioners, or their Agents have hitherto taken little or no care in repairing of Churches and Schooles, divers of which are fallen to great decay, and what they allowed towards Contributions, may partly appeare by their owne shewing particular, to where the Commissioners ingeniously confessed, that the Fifths and Contributions are not fully knowne, nor allowed, and what disturbances the *Petitioners* brought on the Commissioners by their humble and modest addresse to the *Parliament*, setting forth their grievances, and craving redresse thereof ; Having neither themselves denyed to pay their Tithes, nor perswaded, advised, or obstructed others from paying the same, the Tithes being most strictly and punctually paid then ever the *Ministers* received it, is humbly left to your Honours consideration.

And if there have beene any disturbance at all, as indeed there hath been too much, the same hath been done, committed, and occasioned by the Itineraries & Commissioners Agents, by their threats, railing and invective carriages, and expressions against the *Petitioners*, threatning them with Sequestration and ruine, for petitioning the *Parliament*, which carriages of theirs the *Petitioners* humbly conceive to be contrary to the knowne Rights, Liberties and Freedomes of this Nation. And to what difficulty the Commissioners have been put unto, in raising lesse then 10000 l. per annum out of the Tithes and Premises, when

as the *Petitioners* doe offer 30000 l. per annum, for the same is humbly left to your Honours grave considerations.

The Commissioners

7. Answer.

That wee fully know the contrary, as to places of any largesse, to which a considerable number of people belong; But there may be some few Chappells soun up, and decayed in the time of the Warres, which the Inhabitants adjacent, having a more large and convenient place neare to attend the worship of God doe neglect, besides the Reparation thereof is alwayes to be at their particular charge, whereto they have received no hindrance or discouragement from us.

out of the vast Revenue of the Tithes, &c. which they ought to have at least wise so farre as it formerly concerned Tithes, whether Improprate or Presentatives, since the Commissioners and their Agents received the profits, chargeable with such reparations. The *Petitioners* humbly conceived them bound in conscience, and according to the trust in them reposed, not onely to repaire and uphold the Churches, which is the least part of their duty, but also the worship, and glory of God therein; And what incouragement the Parishioners have to repaire, and uphold Churches at their owne particular charge, when they cannot get *Ministers* to Preach the Word of God therein, and performe those other spirituall Rights and duties, which appertain to the Church and *Ministry* of God is humbly left to your Honours pious consideration.

The *Petitioners*

7. Reply.

That as for those few Churches that are standing, and in reparation, the Petitioners have cause to bless the Lord, for the care of the Parliament, in making an Act to enable Justices of the Peace, to raise Taxations towards the Reparation of Churches, amongst whom the Lord hath bene pleased to raise a few that desire the publick worship of his Name. But as for the Commissioners care therein, who are many of them Justices of the Peace, they shewed but small affections to support Churches, having contributed little or nothing towards so pious a worke

The *Petitioners* further averring that since this Itinerary way of propagating the Gospel hath been set on foote in those parts, the Pastors and their particular Auditors take more delight in Teaching and Expounding the Word of God, &c. in private Houses and other places, then the publick Worship of God in publique Churches, where the Inhabitants may have timely, and certaine notice to resort to the same.

And of this sad truth, and all other their Assertions, The *Petitioners* call upon the Great God of Heaven, who knoweth all the wayes and secrets of man to beare witnesse, the matter by them set forth and averred being such visible publique and knowne truths, that they doe admire at the ways of these that gaine say, and goe about to suppress the same; And the *Petitioners* next to the Lord doe appeale to all indifferent unbiassed Strangers, Travellers, Judges, Magistrates, that know those parts, and to all other Inhabitants there, other then the Commissioners, and Tithes gatherers and persons concerned to give evidence of the truth of what the *Petitioners* affirme.

The Commissioners

8. Answer.

The *Petitioners*

8 Reply.

That the Sheriffes and Civil Magistrates take care to have them proclaimed at their County Courtes, and other publique meetings, and to post them up in all market Townes, and the Ministers (where required) are not wanting therein. And we humbly hope those that formerly know our County, and now take notice of the alteration, wrought amongst them.

That the Parliament have not onely thought fit to command all publique Officers in England, to proclaime, and make knowne all their Acts, Edicts and Commands to the Inhabitants, but have also thought it fit, and necessary to command all Ministers, and Pastors within their respective Congregations to publish and make knowne the same, To the end none may be ignorant thereof.

them through the Goodnesse thereof. And that none of
kindnesse, and power of God the poore Inhabitants, may
going along with the Gospel, suffer the penalties of these
will not easily believe they Acts, for transgressing against
suffer much themselves or the the same, when they neither
publique from them by any heard or saw the same, or were
fault therein. made privy therewith (there
being a great distance betwixt

Westminster Hall and Wales.) And therefore the *Petitioners*
doe well hope that the same commendable course, command-
ded, and observed in *England*, ought to be also Practised
in *Wales*, being part of the same Common-wealth, subject to
the same Law, and Authority, and not independant or di-
stant from the supreme Power of the *Parliament*. The
Petitioners acknowledging the goodnesse, and favour of the
Parliament, to have beene all along equally distributed to
them in their Acts, Orders and Edicts as well as to other
parts of the Nation. But the *Petitioners* with griefe, and
sadnesse of heart cannot but complaine for want of the due
examination, and observance thereof.

And whereas the said Commissioners, or at least wise
those that have put in their said Answer, under a shew of Hu-
manity, doe uncharitably conceive, and give forth that the
Promoters of the *Petition* are persons well known to be pre-
tenders of the Worke of God, thereby to carry on other de-
signes, branding them abroad, and before this Honorable
Committee by way of Recrimination, with the Name of
Malignants, Delinquents, and ill affected persons, and such
as have a designe to bring in power Malignants, and to re-invest
scandalous Malignant unpreaching *Ministers*, and *Curats*,
notwithstanding their *Petition* and Prosecution thereof speaks
the contrary, The *Petitioners* and Promoters thereof dare
appeale (as touching the sincerity of their thoughts and af-
fections to the *Parliament*, and the truth of the *Petition*)
to the Righteous God, that judgeth righteously, and trieth
the Hearts, and Raynes, before whose Judgement Seat they doubt
not but to appeare as innocent, from those things laid to their
charge

charge, as most of their Accusers, who as they feare *doe judge*, before their time, and are wise above what is Revealed. The Lord onely knowes who are his, and who are onely pretenders of true Religion, and who not, and who they are that drive and carry at selfe interest, under faire and specious pretences, and count gaine godlinesse, making too great hast to grow rich (which true Believers dare not doe.) The *Petitioners* therefore not regarding the judgement of men, dare trust their Good and Gracious God in all Conditions, And doe humbly Acquiesce in his most Righteous Judgements.

Earnestly beseeching your Honours, Seriously, Piously, and Christianly to weigh and consider the Premises, and the Particulars exhibited by the *Petitioners*. And as it was impossible for the *Petitioners* to prepare the particulars of the seven Counties in two Dayes time, much lesse in one, so it was impossible to Reply to the Commissioners Answer, untill they saw the same, and had a Copy thereof; Especially not understanding the meaning of the Order, untill it was explained. And as your Honours favourably entertained, and received their particulars, though the *Petitioners* for the reason aforesaid failed in strictnesse of time; So they likewise pray your Honours to accept of this their Reply, the *Petitioners* having not obtained a Copy of their Answer, untill your Honours by the Order of the 16th of July. did command, and Order the same, though your *Petitioners* ever since the 10. of May since it was lodged with this Committee, used their endeavours therein, which untill July the 16th proved fruitlesse; And the *Petitioners* pray this Reply may be added, and annexed to their particulars, to be reported to the Parliament, that Command may issue fourth to the Countrey according to the Resolves of Parliament, to examine Witnesses for discovery and manifestation of the truth of the premises.

And the *Petitioners* likewise pray the particular Booke of Accompt, mentioned in the Report of the Sub-Committee, may be produced, and the *Petitioners* have a Copy thereof, with time and liberty to sur-charge the same.

And that your Honours would favourably consider of all the grievances in Order to a settlement, of a convenient number of Godly able *Ministers*, and *School-Masters*, such

as the *Parliament* and your Honour shall approve of, and an account for the profits of the Tithes, &c. Received since the Commissioners were impowered;

And that in Order to a future supply of such *Ministers*, and *School-Masters*, and improving, and advancing the Tithes and Revenues aforesaid; The *Parliament* will be pleased to take such course therein, as they shall thinke meet; for where is no vision the People perish: And so having done our best endeavours therein, and discharged our Consciences; we shall say no more at this time, but patiently wait on our God, who in his One time without doubt will beare Witnesse of the Truth by the *Petitioners* Averred in the *Petition*: In which they aime at nothing more than the *Glory of God*, the good of His Church and People. The true *Propagation* of his glorious *Gospel*; The safety and well-fare of their Countrey in particular, and this *Commonwealth* in generall, waiting in hope and Expectation of a blessing, and successe accordingly.

Mr. Tho. Lewis, Mr. Tho. Powell, and Mr. Griffith Hatley,
their Letter to Mr. Jenk. Jones.

MR. Jones, We desire to be resolved by you, whether the ejected Ministers of this Country, who have been silenced & suspended (now this long time) ab officio & beneficio may at last have the door of utterance opened, and be permitted to preach the Gospel freely among those that do much want it, & do as earnestly call for it, as the parched Earth after the dew and Raine of Heaven. The reason why we put this busines to the question is: because about the last spring, some of our fellow Ministers, taking the boldnes to preach the word of God, (were some of them) sent prisoners to Chelsto Garrison, others pull'd out of the Pulpit, and all the rest were threatned to have the same measure meted unto them; if they should make the same attempts: and therefore wee desire to know whether we are under the same restraint still, or are at liberty: wee doubt not but that you can resolve us herein, as well as any other in this County, and we hope you will be pleased to satisfy our civill request herein, and vouchsafe a line of answer, which you may direct to either of the subscribers, who are

Sir

Your friends, as far as you are a friend
to Christ, and his wayes

Tho. Lewis. Tho. Powell. Griffith Hatley.

Mr. Jenk. Jones Letter in Answer to the former.

Dear Sir,

YOur Letter dated Feb. 6. 1653. I received the first of March. And in answer to what you propose therein, I shall onely put you in minde that you are still, and (more) than like to be in the same condition, with those in the last Spring; And tell you that you are to expect the same measure from the * present Power (whose connivance you seem (at least) to fan-
 * See the Gov-
 vernment, or
 the Articles
 signed by the
 Lord Protect-
 or.
 si- to your selves.) As your brethren had the last Spring from the (then) powers; And also that you need not pretend your being pressed as from pity to water the parched earth, there being more Sermons Preached (now) in one moneth, then were formerly in twelve, and with very much (though I dare not say with a greater blessing; consider the restraint-fearing-Spirit that's in you;

Your friend, and servant;

March 2. 1653.

Jen. Jones.

Mr. Lewis, Mr. Powel, and Mr. Hatlies Reply to

Mr. Jenkin Jones Answer.

MR. Jones, wee thank you for your Letter: wherein you have fully resolved us, what we must expect, if we Preach the Gospell in this poor Countrey; nothing but bonds and imprisonment (if you divine aright) abide us. If we be silent, and do not Preach, we are reproached, and if we do Preach we are menaced. A hard dilemma. Sir, notwithstanding your paines in preaching (which neuertheless is much abated of what it was, since you have caught the fish that you looked for) there are many dry and thirsty soules in this Country, that are very seldom refreshed with the dew of Heavenly Doctrine, and for want thereof do daily relapse to Popery, and that in no small number; we could name above 20 Parish churches in this County, in many wherof there have not been above two Sermons this 12 moneth, and in most of them none at all: yet the Inhabitants pay their Tithes still as formerly. Their com-

plaints have fill'd the ears of men long since, and have (no doubt) e're this ascended up to the ears of the Lord of Saboth. We shall therefore (in compassion to these poor soules) adventure to bestow our paines among them, and put our selves upon the candor & clemency of our present Governour, from whom we do expect (and doubt not to find) better measure then you forbade us; or then our fellow Ministers received (the last Spring) when other powers swayed, to wit, your own.

That there are more Sermons preached (now) in a month then was formerly in 12. will hardly finde credit, with any that knowes this Country, and is such a story that men will admire to have proceeded from your Pen: since that we do not know of above two Itinerant Preachers, resident in the Country (and one of the two hardly worth the name of a Preacher: whereas formerly there was a preaching Minister (almost) in every parish (some Impropropriations except) and most of them graduated in the Universities, and able and painfull men in their callings. Consider better of that passage of your Better, and consider what spirit you are of: for the Spirit of God is a spirit of truth, Nec mendax est, nec mordax.

Your loving friends Tho. Lewis,

March 6. 1653.

Tho. Pow. Gr. Hatly.

And thus you have a full Narration of the Petition, the Petitioners charge, The Commissioners Answer, and the Reply thereunto, which makes evident to all Christian soules, the deplorable Condition of the Inhabitants of Wales concerning their Soules welfare, wherein they continue to this very day: enduring a Famine of the Word, and the Bread of life, being rendered unto them, is forbidden; As may appeare by these Letters sent unto me from 3 Reverend and Orthodox Ministers, and Bachelors of Divinity, within the County of Brecknock, directed to Capt. Genk Jones, one of the Itineraries, with his unchristian, and insolent Answer thereunto.

FINIS.